

HOW QUICKLY WE FORGET...

President Bush's Short-Term Memory on Appropriations

President Bush has a short-term memory when it comes to the annual appropriations process. The President criticizes Democrats, while conveniently ignoring **Republicans' 6 year record of routine failure to pass appropriations bills before the start of the fiscal year – when they had complete control of Washington.** President Bush himself has significantly slowed down the appropriations process this year by threatening to veto 9 out of 12 bills – despite the fact that he never vetoed a single appropriations bill while Republicans were in charge and spending dramatically increased.

When Republicans had total control in Washington...

...the GOP failed to pass appropriations bills on time...

- Over the past 6 years, the Republican-led Congress enacted 6 out of 74 appropriations bills before the beginning of the fiscal year.
- In 2 of the last 6 years, the Republican-controlled Congress did not enact any appropriations bills by the start of the fiscal year (FY 2002 and 2003).
- Under President Bush, the Republican-controlled Congress on average only enacted 1 appropriations bill by the start of the fiscal year.
- In fact, under President Bush, appropriations bills were often not finished until well after the beginning of the fiscal year.
 - In two cases, all appropriations bills were not completed until December; in two other years, appropriations were not completed until the following January; and in two years appropriations work was not finished until February.

...the GOP passed 29 continuing resolutions...

- Under President Bush and a Republican Congress, the Federal Government has operated on a CR for at least some portion of every year.
 - In 2006, the President signed 2 continuing resolutions for FY 2007.
 - In 2005, the President signed 3 continuing resolutions for FY 2006.
 - In 2004, the President signed 3 continuing resolutions for FY 2005.
 - In 2003, the President signed 5 continuing resolutions for FY 2004.
 - In 2002, the President signed 8 continuing resolutions for FY 2003.
 - In 2001, the President signed 8 continuing resolutions for FY 2002.

...the GOP signed 3 omnibus appropriations bills...

- The President has signed 3 omnibus appropriations bills in the past 6 years, all sent to him by a Republican Congress.
 - In 2004, he signed an omnibus combining 7 bills for FY 2005.
 - In 2003, he signed an omnibus combining 6 bills for FY 2004.
 - In 2002, he signed an omnibus combining 10 bills for FY 2003.

...and the GOP failed to pass 9 of 11 spending bills in FY2007, leaving Democrats to clean up their mess.